NOTES AND NEWS.

THE NEXT MEETING of the Society will be held at Mendelssohn Hall, No. 119 West Fortieth Street, on Tuesday, March 19, 1901, at 8.30 o'clock, P.M. Mr. Herbert M. Wilson, of the U. S. Geological Survey, will deliver a lecture on Examples of Topographic Forms in the United States.

At the meeting to be held on Tuesday, April 16, Prof. Charles L. Bristol, of New York University, will address the Society on the Geography of Bermuda.

IT IS ANNOUNCED that the Weather Bureau has now established stations for meteorological observation, from the northern coast of South America to Hamilton, Bermuda. This point is connected by cable with Halifax, Nova Scotia, and the chain of posts thus completed brings within reach a more accurate forecast of weather conditions on the ocean and the east coast of the United States.

Arrangements have also been made by the Weather Bureau for a daily report from the Meteorological Observatory at St. Michaels, Azores, to be collated with telegraphic reports from London of the conditions to the west of Spain, France and Ireland, so as to furnish an approximate survey of the weather on the Atlantic.

The Bureau has begun to issue to the captains of European steamers leaving New York predictions for three days out, with forecast of wind force and wind direction. Similar predictions are supplied to the officers of steamers leaving European ports for this country.

MORE THAN THREE HUNDRED pages in the Annual Report of the Geological Survey of New Jersey for 1899 are devoted to a Report on Forests, illustrated by 31 plates and a number of maps in the text, and an atlas of seven large-scale sheets, showing the wooded areas of the State.

The Report says that New Jersey has ceased to be a lumber-producing State, most of the large timber having disappeared before 1860.*

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* A foot-note says: "The largest white-oak tree in the State is in Gloucester County, three miles north of Mickleton, and its dimensions, as given by Dr. J. T. Rothrock, are: Height, 95 feet; diameter of trunk, three feet above the ground, 7 feet 10 inches; spread of branches, 118 feet."

This tree, it is added, is older than the settlement of the country.

Taking the State as a whole, it appears that there is now nearly as much forest as there was in 1860, and that the deciduous timber has increased in size and improved in quality within the past twenty years.

The forest area of the State amounts to 2,069,819 acres, or 46 per cent. of the upland area. This is almost exactly equal to the area of improved land in farms.

DR. REGINALD A. DALY, of Harvard University, is to conduct an exploring expedition to Labrador, Greenland and Iceland in the summer of 1901. The plan is to charter a steamer of 1,000 tons to accommodate a party of sixty men. The main object of the voyage will be to study the lava fields, geysers and glaciers of Iceland, the fiords and glaciers of the west coast of Greenland, and the mountains and fiords of northern Labrador. A hunting party may be landed for a fortnight or three weeks in Greenland, and also in Labrador. Explanatory lectures on the regions visited will be given by the leader of the excursion. On the Labrador coast Dr. Daly will act as guide himself, as he spent the summer of 1900 there with a party. In Greenland and Iceland specialists on the geology and physical geography of those countries will lead the expedition.

AT A MEETING of the Italian Geographical Society, held on the 14th of January, the Duke of the Abruzzi and Commander Cagni told the story of their famous Arctic expedition to an audience which included the dignitaries of the kingdom and of the city of Rome, the members of the Diplomatic Corps, the royal family, and the King and Queen of Italy.

The work of two explorers in the Arctic, the Duke said, had especially attracted his attention for the immense distances travelled with dog sledges; these were the journeys of Peary on the inland ice of Greenland and those of Wrangell in northern Siberia.

The plan of a polar expedition took definite shape in his mind in January, 1899, after conferences held with Nansen.

This plan was simple enough: to establish a base in Franz Josef Land, and from that to push towards the Pole in sledges.

The base chosen was Teplitz Bay, on the west coast of Kronprinz Rudolf Land, and it was here that on the 9th of September the *Stella Polare* narrowly escaped destruction from the closing in of the ice.

In December began the preparations for the sledge journey to

the north. Two days before Christmas the Duke and Comm. Cagni, returning from an excursion with the dogs, missed their way and fell into the bay from a height of about twenty feet. They were rescued in a half hour, but with frozen fingers.

The temperature in January ranged from 30° to 40° below zero (Cent.), 22° to 40° below zero (Fahr.). The health of the party was excellent.

Thus far the Duke. Comm. Cagni followed with a brief account of the sledges, the manner of loading them with provisions and instruments, and the measurement of supplies for a contemplated journey of 480 miles in 45 days:

"Certainly," *he said*, "it seemed over-bold, even to ourselves, to count upon a daily march of more than ten miles; but the example of Wrangell and of Peary filled us with hope greater than the discouragement we found in the experiences of Parry and Markham, and even of Nansen. And upon these definite bases we made all our preparations."

He then described, with simplicity and force, the start on the 21st of February, the events of the journey, the violent winds and the bitter cold, and the steady progress in the face of difficulties. On the 22d of March it was decided to send back to the camp the first group of three—Lieut. Querini, the guide Ollier and the machinist Stökken. They set out the next day, to be seen no more.

It was the 11th of May when the party reached the highest north in 86° 33′. Three tin cylinders, containing the record, were deposited on the spot, and the homeward march was begun. The rate of travel, which had generally fallen below the ten-mile standard, now exceeded it, and Teplitz Bay was reached on the 22d of June.

Capt. Cagni notes that, with the exception of the reindeer boots, the borders of the hoods and sleeves, and the sleeping-bags, the wearing apparel of his party was of cloth and wool.

The Duke of the Abruzzi summed up the geographical results of the expedition as follows:

Petermann Land and King Oscar Land are to be erased from the maps;

Cape Sherard Osborn certainly forms no part of Kronprinz Rudolf Land, and the Duke, in his long stay at Cape Fligely, was unable to discover any land in the direction assigned by Payer to Cape Sherard Osborn;

The islands marked in Wellman's map to the north of Hvidtland, between that and Kronprinz Rudolf Land, were not to be descried from Cape Fligely, which is, therefore, the most northern point of the Franz Josef group; not, as marked on the maps, in 82° N. Lat., or over, but in Lat. 81° 51′.

THE FOLLOWING NOTE appears in *Nature*, of January 10:

The fall of two of the stones of the outer circle of Stonehenge, on the last evening of the nineteenth century, directs attention to the necessity for at once taking steps

to preserve this remarkable prehistoric monument. . . . An engineer, writing to the *Times*, suggests a method of undermining the stones, and imbedding them in a foundation of concrete or cement. A scheme of this kind would cost comparatively little, and there should be no difficulty in obtaining funds to carry it out. . . .

WORK ON THE International Catalogue of Scientific Literature was to begin on the 1st of January, 1901, and to include all literature published after that date.

The Royal Society act as publishers of the Catalogue and sign the necessary contracts.

At the end of December the number of copies of sets subscribed for was 290, of which the United States take 68, Great Britain and Germany each 45, France 35, Italy 27, Japan 15 and Switzerland 7; Sweden subscribes for 6½ and Canada for 4½ sets.

The annual cost of each set is 17 pounds, or 85 dollars.

Three countries—Russia, Belgium and Spain—have not yet joined in the scheme.

MR. BORCHGREVINK addressed the Berlin *Gesellschaft für Erdkunde*, on the 2d of February, on the subject of his Antarctic expedition.

It was on the 30th of December, 1898, that the *Southern Cross* encountered, in S. Lat. 51° 56′, the heavy pack ice which held her fast till January 26, with a pressure that sometimes lifted the ship four feet. Open water was reached at last, and on the 16th of February Victoria Land was sighted, and the next day the ship entered Robertson Bay; the stores were landed and the tent was set up at Camp Bidley, the winter station. The tent was protected on all sides by sloping walls, and, thanks to this precaution, it was able to resist the fury of the terrible southeast storms.

Borchgrevink climbed the steep cliffs of Cape Adare to the height of 1,376 feet, finding traces of vegetation at 800 feet.

The winter began to make itself felt early in March. The first aurora was seen on the 15th of March, and then came fearful storms —the wind blowing as much as eighty-seven miles an hour.

The polar darkness was felt to be strangely depressing by every one. The only distractions were chess and cards, until there was a prospect of varying the monotonous bill of fare by the addition of fish, when all took to fishing.

In the middle of August the thermometer marked 46° below zero (Cent.) (51° below zero Fahr.). Several excursions were made during the winter, and Borchgrevink discovered in the mountains minerals of value, over which he hoisted the English flag. Returning from

one of these excursions, in October, he found the zoologist Hansen in a dying condition.

The penguins and the gulls began to come at the end of October. The storms seemed to increase, and one blew ninety-nine miles an hour. These tempests Mr. Borchgrevink seems to regard as peculiar to the Antarctic, and he says they are never to be left out of the calculation when an expedition is planned.

Preparations were made to observe the eclipse of the sun on the 3d of December, but the sky was covered with clouds.

It was noted, however, that there was a change of temperature during the eclipse.

Early in February, in the neighborhood of Possession Island, favorable magnetic observations enabled the explorers to calculate the position of the magnetic south pole. A landing was made on Franklin Island, and the volcanoes Terror and Erebus were visible in the south—the latter in activity. There is a small flat beach at the foot of Mt. Terror, and, while waiting there for the return of the boat from the ship, Borchgrevink and Captain Jensen narrowly escaped death. An iceberg plunged from a glacier into the sea and threw up a wave which swept over them and almost tore them from their hold on the crags.

We regret to record the death, on the 14th of January, of the Cavaliere Ingegnere MATTEO FIORINI, for many years Professor of Geodesy in the University of Bologna.